Greetings, Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Berthel, Representative Nuccio, and members of the Appropriations Committee.

As a native Danburian as well as educator with almost thirty years of service (25 in Danbury), I must tell you that It is vital that the legislature adequately funds our public schools, especially in Danbury, where we have long held the distinction of having one of the lowest per pupil expenditure rates in the state.

Investing in Danbury's Public Schools means that you are investing in every student, every family, every teacher, and not just a select group. Even with one of the lowest per-pupil expenditure rates in the state, Danbury has annually received "Schools of Distinction" recognition. With these distinctions, former Mayor Mark Boughton highlighted how Danbury schools outperformed other city school districts that spent more per student. It is clear that Danbury public schools know how to teach our kids and help them succeed, and we ask that you allow us to continue to do so.

Please support Danbury Public Schools by continuing to increase our funding to address our growing needs, and not by taking dollars out of our education budget. We know how to educate our kids in our schools, please let us.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Tom Young